Quarterly Population Highlights

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Reference date: December 2016 Issue #16-04 Released: March 23, 2017

B.C. Highlights

The population of B.C. was estimated at 4,777,157 as of January 1, 2017, growing by 3,812 persons in the last quarter of 2016 (up 0.08% from October 1, 2016).

Combined net in-migration from all sources (inter-provincial and international) totalled 2,632 persons during the fourth quarter of 2016, the largest fourth quarter net migration in the last five years. Broken down, net interprovincial in-migration contributed 3,292 persons to population growth while net international in-migration subtracted 660 persons, due to a decline in non-permanent residents (NPRs). Finally, a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 1,180 had a positive impact on population growth in the fourth quarter, though lower than in the same quarter of the previous year.

The Last Twelve Months

B.C.'s total population grew by 61,598 persons (+1.3%) over the twelve months ending December 31, 2016, largely due to international and interprovincial migration. On an annual basis, births (+44,998) and interprovincial arrivals (+65,512) were the largest sources of population growth for the province. Net interprovincial migration accounted for a gain of 20,026 and net international migration added 32,912 persons from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. More than four in every five persons added since January 1, 2016 could be attributed to net migration from all sources (+52,938). The remainder was due to natural increase (+8,660).

B.C. population October 1, 2016		**4,773,345**
Interprovincial migration		+ 3,292
Add interprovincial arrivals	+ 10,096	
Minus interprovincial exits	– 6,804	
International migration		–660
Add immigrants	+ 7,163	
Minus total net emigrants	– 4,183	
Net change in non-permanent residents	– 3,640	
Natural change		+1,180
Add births	+ 10,932	
Minus deaths	– 9,752	
Net Change		+3,812
B.C. population January 1, 2017		**4,777,157**

National Overview

The population of Canada grew by 59,465 persons (+0.16%) to 36,503,097 during the fourth quarter of 2016, a lower growth than in the previous quarter. Leading the growth at the provincial and territorial level were Nunavut (+0.36%), Manitoba (+0.33%), Alberta (+0.26%), Saskatchewan (+0.25%) and Ontario (+0.22%). With the exception of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, all remaining jurisdictions also experienced population increases during the fourth quarter.

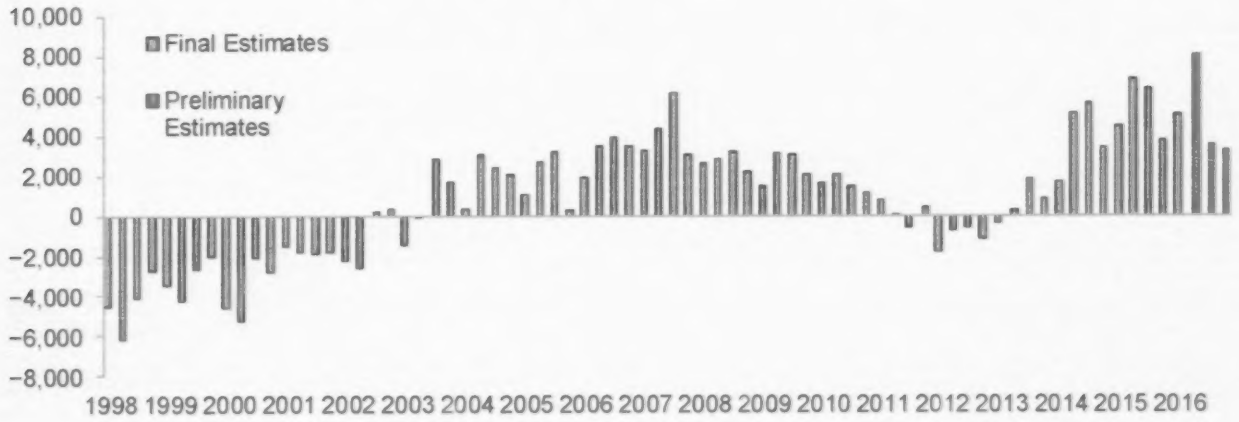
Fourth Quarter International Migration

Net international in-migration to British Columbia (immigrants plus the net change in NPRs plus returning emigrants less emigrants and persons temporarily abroad) registered a net loss of 660 in the fourth quarter. This compares to a larger net loss of 3,648 in the fourth quarter of 2015. Although the total number of immigrants arriving in British Columbia from October 1 to December 31 was substantial at 7,163, it was offset by a net loss in NPRs of 3,640. In comparison, a much larger net NPR loss of 8,311 occurred during the same quarter of 2015. As for persons leaving B.C. for international destinations, an estimated 3,707 left on a permanent basis and 1,365 were away temporarily in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Fourth Quarter Interprovincial Migration

British Columbia ranked second only to Ontario as a province or territory that received population from other Canadian jurisdictions in the fourth quarter of 2016. In B.C., an inflow of 10,096 persons was offset by an outflow of 6,804 for a net population gain of 3,292. British Columbia's net exchange with Alberta was positive, with an estimated 1,913 more persons leaving Alberta for B.C. than those going to Alberta. In addition, B.C. reported positive net in-migration from Saskatchewan (+343) and Manitoba (+307) as well as positive gains from most other jurisdictions. Ontario was the highest net recipient in the fourth quarter of 2016 with a net gain of 3,983 interprovincial migrants.

B.C. Net Interprovincial Migration by Quarter, Q1 1998 to Q4 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 051-0017 Interprovincial migrants, Canada, provinces and territories, CANSIM. Last updated March 23, 2017.

Click here for more information about British Columbia demography.

Did You Know?

After every Canadian Census of Population since 1991, Statistics Canada has conducted the Reverse Record Check (RRC) Survey. This survey is used to estimate the number of persons missed during the last Census.

Information from the RRC survey is used to calculate accurate population counts, which are used to determine the amount of money transferred from the federal government to your region. Provinces and territories use these funds to help finance many social programs including health care, employment and training, education, public transportation and housing.

Data collection for the 2016 RRC is taking place from January 16th to June 30th, 2017.

For more information please see http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/survey/household/3902

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Table 1: Provincial migration flow (October - December 2016)

Origin \ Destination	Nfld	PEI	NS	NB	Que	Ont	Man	Sask	Alta	BC	Yukon	NWT	Nvt
Nfld	—	23	166	69	77	431	50	—	251	30	4	--	8
PEI	22	—	58	43	13	164	—	7	72	64	—	—	—
NS	68	61	—	363	77	869	42	23	444	267	—	—	51
NB	49	45	269	—	340	663	26	44	346	238	—	—	—
Que	11	25	142	183	—	3,763	87	41	466	553	—	23	10
Ont	305	182	597	384	1,780	—	560	323	2,653	2,470	72	29	38
Man	9	14	69	28	37	904	—	355	662	597	44	13	—
Sask	18	4	61	15	108	831	268	—	1,716	739	14	3	—
Alta	285	56	582	339	628	3,436	539	1,440	—	4,921	18	108	6
BC	59	16	234	101	371	2,197	290	396	3,008	—	87	28	17
Yukon	7	—	11	—	—	16	7	26	42	133	—	6	—
NWT	5	—	23	7	5	41	5	7	120	84	22	—	5
Nvt	39	3	13	—	14	61	11	—	5	—	—	17	—
Inflow	877	429	2,225	1,532	3,450	13,376	1,885	2,662	9,785	10,096	261	227	135
Outflow	1,109	443	2,265	2,020	5,304	9,393	2,732	3,777	12,358	6,804	248	324	163
Net interprovincial	- 232	- 14	- 40	- 488	- 1,854	3,983	- 847	- 1,115	- 2,573	3,292	13	- 97	- 28
Net international										- 660			
Total net										2,632			

Prepared by: Demographic Analysis, BC Stats
Date: March 2017

Data source: Statistics Canada

Table 2: Quarterly components of population change in British Columbia

		Interprovincial			International											Population at end of quarter	Annual growth rate (%)
Year	Quarter	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Emigrants	Net NPR	Temporary abroad	Returning emigrants	Net	Total net migration	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Total increase		
2000	1	9,777	13,871	- 4,599	8,610	1,546	1,950	1,253	396	8,157	3,558	10,167	7,787	2,880	6,438	4,043,319	0.8
2000	2	11,413	16,679	- 5,266	9,495	2,092	260	1,428	732	6,967	1,701	10,682	6,688	3,994	5,695	4,039,230	0.7
2000	3	15,001	17,096	- 2,095	10,316	3,517	2,330	2,002	956	8,073	5,978	10,378	6,508	3,870	9,848	4,049,297	0.7
2000	4	8,329	11,146	- 2,823	8,992	1,939	75	1,444	385	6,069	3,246	9,450	6,983	2,467	5,713	4,055,229	0.7
	Total	44,009	58,792	- 14,783	37,413	9,094	4,605	6,127	2,469	29,266	14,483	40,672	27,461	13,211	27,694		
2001	1	8,597	10,134	- 1,537	9,478	1,375	2,402	1,344	385	9,596	8,059	9,941	7,311	2,630	10,689	4,066,132	0.8
2001	2	11,417	13,248	- 1,831	10,807	1,748	2,113	1,376	742	10,538	8,707	10,598	7,013	3,585	12,292	4,076,881	0.9
2001	3	16,029	17,902	- 1,873	10,579	5,051	4,927	1,512	1,471	10,379	8,456	10,444	6,794	3,650	12,106	4,085,760	0.9
2001	4	8,365	10,152	- 1,787	7,720	3,261	239	1,057	699	4,340	2,553	9,957	7,744	2,448	4,901	4,087,435	0.8
	Total	44,408	51,436	- 7,028	38,484	11,435	9,676	5,189	3,247	34,803	27,775	40,575	28,362	12,213	39,988		
2002	1	9,244	11,516	- 2,272	9,573	1,560	2,703	1,006	627	10,357	8,085	9,605	7,672	1,933	10,018	4,094,296	0.7
2002	2	13,521	16,145	- 2,624	10,302	1,943	297	1,364	1,186	8,378	5,754	10,291	6,989	3,302	9,056	4,100,161	0.6
2002	3	16,089	15,936	153	7,992	4,615	3,746	1,897	1,747	7,373	7,526	10,470	6,854	3,616	11,142	4,108,076	0.5
2002	4	8,925	8,627	298	6,290	3,110	- 409	1,022	805	2,554	2,852	9,699	7,369	2,330	5,182	4,110,032	0.6
	Total	47,779	52,224	- 4,445	34,057	11,158	6,337	4,889	4,355	28,662	24,217	40,065	28,884	11,181	35,398		
2003	1	8,685	10,145	- 1,460	7,954	2,407	1,582	1,086	931	6,944	5,484	9,813	7,546	2,267	7,751	4,114,657	0.5
2003	2	14,379	14,407	- 28	9,668	7,315	1,407	1,337	1,430	8,873	8,845	10,552	6,925	3,627	12,472	4,123,937	0.6
2003	3	15,973	13,093	2,880	9,459	4,099	1,374	1,558	1,828	7,004	9,884	10,495	6,972	3,523	13,757	4,133,968	0.6
2003	4	9,295	7,612	1,683	8,132	3,433	657	1,028	797	5,125	6,808	9,737	7,877	1,860	8,668	4,139,409	0.7
	Total	48,382	45,257	3,075	35,213	17,254	5,020	5,009	4,986	27,976	31,001	40,497	29,320	11,177	42,178		
2004	1	9,984	9,674	310	8,966	2,746	1,098	1,010	762	7,070	7,380	9,740	7,840	1,900	9,280	4,145,498	0.7
2004	2	15,204	12,162	3,042	10,155	3,204	- 509	1,345	1,412	6,509	9,551	10,334	7,174	3,160	12,711	4,155,017	0.8
2004	3	15,109	13,731	1,378	10,367	3,909	2,830	1,544	1,148	9,887	12,265	10,394	7,223	3,171	15,436	4,167,727	0.8
2004	4	10,760	8,705	2,055	7,543	2,909	754	1,039	979	5,268	7,323	10,022	7,687	2,335	9,658	4,177,658	0.8
	Total	51,057	44,272	6,785	37,026	12,828	4,173	4,938	4,301	28,734	36,519	40,490	29,924	10,566	47,085		
2005	1	11,239	10,184	1,055	10,505	2,368	1,537	1,017	928	9,555	10,610	9,761	8,118	1,643	12,253	4,187,755	0.9
2005	2	17,172	14,446	2,726	12,267	2,758	582	1,338	1,671	10,324	13,050	10,455	7,305	3,150	16,200	4,195,764	1.0
2005	3	16,631	13,479	3,152	12,450	3,454	2,969	1,576	1,574	12,963	16,115	10,745	7,311	3,434	19,769	4,212,306	1.1
2005	4	8,948	8,689	259	9,653	2,899	- 483	1,006	1,045	6,310	6,569	9,866	7,701	2,165	8,734	4,217,814	1.1
	Total	53,990	46,778	7,212	44,775	11,509	4,605	4,937	5,218	39,152	46,464	40,827	30,435	10,392	56,956		
2006	1	12,794	10,411	1,884	10,270	2,401	1,778	1,025	1,091	9,669	11,553	9,858	8,054	1,804	13,356	4,228,013	1.1
2006	2	15,223	12,737	3,486	11,473	2,769	639	1,184	1,922	9,931	13,417	10,723	7,445	3,278	16,695	4,241,692	1.2
2006	3	19,163	15,744	3,919	11,021	3,648	3,552	2,094	2,965	11,796	15,715	10,951	7,263	3,688	19,403	4,258,216	1.1
2006	4	12,150	8,639	3,511	9,321	3,102	- 1,913	1,112	847	4,041	7,552	10,197	7,926	2,271	9,823	4,265,161	1.1
	Total	58,830	46,032	12,799	42,085	11,920	4,012	5,565	6,825	35,437	48,236	41,729	30,688	11,041	59,277		
2007	1	11,705	8,467	3,238	7,977	2,734	4,274	1,176	876	9,767	12,500	10,108	8,177	1,931	14,431	4,276,777	1.2
2007	2	15,164	10,827	4,337	9,497	2,836	2,425	1,430	1,533	9,189	13,526	11,123	7,591	3,532	17,058	4,290,988	1.2
2007	3	19,576	13,449	6,127	12,708	4,551	1,802	2,165	1,797	13,797	19,924	11,577	7,563	4,014	23,938	4,312,048	1.3
2007	4	10,587	7,513	3,074	9,293	2,895	- 1,467	1,304	969	4,696	7,770	10,841	7,977	2,864	10,634	4,319,805	1.3
	Total	57,032	40,256	16,776	38,970	11,990	9,983	5,562	5,543	36,944	53,720	43,649	31,308	12,341	66,061		
2008	1	11,851	9,214	2,637	10,127	2,353	2,919	1,197	955	10,451	13,078	10,486	8,574	1,912	14,990	4,331,948	1.3
2008	2	15,382	12,567	2,815	11,592	2,517	4,926	1,558	1,678	14,121	16,936	11,238	7,863	3,375	20,311	4,349,412	1.4
2008	3	16,951	13,739	3,212	12,714	3,293	7,670	1,799	2,088	17,330	20,542	11,738	7,565	4,173	24,715	4,371,250	1.4
2008	4	9,479	7,284	2,195	9,569	2,673	2,305	1,194	896	8,903	11,098	10,814	8,095	2,719	13,817	4,382,189	1.4
	Total	53,663	42,814	10,849	44,002	10,836	17,820	5,748	5,567	50,805	61,654	44,276	32,097	12,179	73,833		
2009	1	11,143	9,677	1,471	9,744	2,775	5,643	1,274	957	12,340	13,811	10,710	8,256	2,454	16,265	4,395,638	1.5
2009	2	13,458	10,371	3,117	10,848	2,094	2,093	1,547	1,562	10,862	13,979	11,428	7,520	3,908	17,887	4,410,679	1.4
2009	3	14,579	11,543	3,036	12,116	2,989	7,119	1,754	2,109	16,601	19,637	11,937	7,674	4,263	23,900	4,431,701	1.4
2009	4	8,899	6,851	2,048	9,231	2,647	1,477	1,217	1,014	7,858	9,906	10,918	7,990	2,928	12,834	4,441,657	1.4
	Total	48,109	38,437	9,672	41,939	10,005	16,332	5,792	5,637	47,661	57,333	44,993	31,440	13,553	70,886		

BC Stats

Table 2: Quarterly components of population change in British Columbia

Year	Quarter	Interprovincial			International						Total net migration	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Total increase	Population at end of quarter	Annual growth rate (%)
		In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Emigrants	Net NPR	Temporary abroad	Returning emigrants	Net							
2010	1	11,404	9,861	1,613	9,679	7,488	4,202	1,199	977	11,121	12,734	10,568	7,896	2,672	15,406	4,454,748	1.3
2010	2	14,517	12,486	2,031	12,895	2,431	– 1,535	1,592	1,776	9,113	11,144	11,218	7,839	3,379	14,523	4,465,924	1.3
2010	3	14,470	12,957	1,464	13,508	3,615	5,225	1,791	1,916	15,743	16,706	11,386	7,461	3,925	20,631	4,483,677	1.2
2010	4	9,639	8,594	1,105	8,153	7,682	– 7,222	1,198	857	– 2,092	– 987	10,654	8,128	2,526	1,539	4,482,338	0.9
	Total	50,050	43,838	6,212	44,185	11,216	670	5,780	5,526	33,385	39,597	43,826	31,324	12,502	52,099		
2011	1	10,899	10,119	780	7,614	2,499	1,316	1,190	841	6,082	6,862	10,581	8,273	2,258	9,170	4,488,643	0.8
2011	2	12,896	12,823	73	9,671	2,524	1,033	1,584	1,548	8,144	8,217	11,337	7,838	3,499	11,716	4,499,139	0.7
2011	3	15,465	16,041	– 576	9,882	3,787	10,997	1,701	2,063	17,454	16,878	11,779	7,497	4,282	21,160	4,520,799	0.8
2011	4	9,757	9,373	434	7,619	3,350	– 1,033	1,384	894	2,746	3,180	10,487	8,356	2,126	5,306	4,526,605	1.0
	Total	49,017	48,306	711	34,786	12,160	12,313	5,859	5,346	34,426	35,137	44,129	31,964	12,165	47,302		
2012	1	10,753	12,542	– 1,789	8,658	2,919	1,876	1,340	900	7,175	5,386	10,403	8,377	2,026	7,412	4,533,017	1.0
2012	2	15,695	16,475	– 780	10,087	2,676	3,267	1,340	1,634	10,977	10,192	11,104	8,023	3,081	13,273	4,546,290	1.0
2012	3	14,439	15,034	– 595	9,079	3,616	9,369	1,666	2,208	15,374	14,779	11,589	7,680	3,859	18,568	4,564,858	1.0
2012	4	7,404	8,562	– 1,158	8,468	2,915	– 3,975	1,342	844	1,080	– 78	10,962	8,444	2,518	2,440	4,567,318	0.9
	Total	48,291	52,613	– 4,322	36,242	12,126	10,537	5,688	5,586	34,551	30,229	44,008	32,524	11,484	41,713		
2013	1	9,975	10,358	– 383	8,105	3,363	2,599	1,381	814	6,774	6,391	10,643	8,647	1,996	8,387	4,575,705	0.9
2013	2	16,690	16,422	268	10,134	2,778	2,608	1,374	1,573	10,163	10,431	10,993	8,088	2,905	13,336	4,589,041	0.9
2013	3	14,145	12,323	1,822	8,928	3,628	11,769	1,630	2,552	17,991	19,813	11,537	7,729	3,808	23,616	4,612,657	1.0
2013	4	9,362	8,555	807	9,045	3,605	– 5,061	1,365	889	– 157	650	10,532	8,593	1,939	2,589	4,615,246	1.0
	Total	50,172	47,658	2,514	36,212	13,464	11,915	5,750	5,828	34,771	37,285	43,700	33,057	10,643	47,928		
2014	1	12,352	10,629	1,723	9,562	3,128	3,047	1,381	862	8,962	10,685	10,581	8,656	1,925	12,610	4,627,856	1.1
2014	2	21,302	16,179	5,123	9,936	2,879	1,917	1,386	1,574	9,162	14,285	11,131	8,011	3,120	17,405	4,645,261	1.2
2014	3	16,558	10,964	5,594	7,989	3,653	11,073	1,630	2,552	16,331	21,925	11,681	7,997	3,684	25,609	4,670,870	1.3
2014	4	10,820	7,401	3,419	7,687	3,693	– 6,931	1,365	889	– 3,413	6	10,875	8,959	1,916	1,922	4,672,792	1.2
	Total	61,032	45,173	15,859	35,174	13,353	9,106	5,762	5,877	31,042	46,901	44,268	33,623	10,645	57,546		
2015	1	15,016	10,524	4,492	6,784	3,151	– 1,929	1,382	862	1,184	5,676	10,587	9,087	1,500	7,176	4,679,968	1.1
2015	2	23,313	16,439	6,874	9,217	2,902	– 2,993	1,387	1,574	3,509	10,383	11,211	8,609	2,602	12,985	4,692,953	1.0
2015	3	18,837	12,501	6,336	10,899	3,666	2,948	1,630	2,552	11,103	17,439	11,677	8,308	3,369	20,808	4,713,761	0.9
2015	4	10,914	7,145	3,769	8,846	3,707	– 8,311	1,365	889	– 3,648	121	10,721	9,044	1,677	1,798	4,715,559	0.9
	Total	68,080	46,609	21,471	35,746	13,426	– 10,285	5,764	5,877	12,148	33,619	44,196	35,048	9,148	42,767		
2016	1	15,441	10,357	5,084	11,750	3,164	– 431	1,382	862	7,635	12,719	10,802	9,403	1,399	14,118	4,729,677	1.1
2016	2	22,358	14,287	8,071	11,337	2,913	2,527	1,386	1,574	11,139	19,210	11,295	8,570	2,725	21,935	4,751,612	1.2
2016	3	17,617	14,038	3,579	7,821	3,666	9,721	1,630	2,552	14,798	18,377	11,969	8,613	3,356	21,733	4,773,345	1.3
2016	4	10,096	6,804	3,292	7,163	3,707	– 3,640	1,365	889	– 660	2,632	10,937	9,752	1,180	3,812	4,777,157	1.3
	Total	65,512	45,486	20,026	38,071	13,450	8,177	5,763	5,877	32,912	52,938	44,998	36,338	8,660	61,598		

Prepared by: Demographic Analysis, BC Stats
Date: March 2017

Data source: Statistics Canada

Note: Net NPR denotes the net change in Non-Permanent Residents.
Due to revisions on the part of Statistics Canada, the sum of the components may not equal the population change.
"–" indicates no data available. All figures subject to revision.